

*****U N C L A S S I F I E D*****

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN 9309
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 USMISSION EC BRUSSELS 4110
 USMISSION IAEA VIENNA 9191

France

UNCLAS PARIS 37186

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, ENRG, TECH, MAUC, FR

SUBJECT: FRENCH NUCLEAR POLICY: PRESIDENTIAL DECISION
 TO STOP ANY NEW SALES OF REPROCESSING PLANTS

1. SUMMARY. THE THIRD MEETING OF THE FRENCH COUNCIL ON NUCLEAR EXPORT POLICY, CHAIRED BY THE PRESIDENT, DECIDED THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16, THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD NO LONGER AUTHORIZE, UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE, THE SIGNATURE OF BILATERAL CONTRACTS COVERING THE SALE TO OTHER COUNTRIES OF NUCLEAR REPROCESSING PLANTS. NO STATEMENT THAT THE SALE TO PAKISTAN OF A REPROCESSING PLANT WAS A CONCLUDED CONTRACT AND NOT AFFECTED BY THIS ANNOUNCEMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. THIS MEETING OF THE MINISTERIAL-LEVEL COUNCIL ON NUCLEAR EXPORT POLICY WAS ROUTINELY ANNOUNCED ON DECEMBER 14. ON DECEMBER 15 THE POSSIBLE TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING RECEIVED UNUSUAL PUBLIC ATTENTION THROUGH A FRONT PAGE ARTICLE IN THE DAILY NEWSPAPER LE FIGARO AND BY BACKGROUND PRESS BRIEFING BY MR. LECAT, THE ELYSEE PRESS SPOKESMAN. THE FIGARO ARTICLE AND THE BACKGROUND BRIEFING COVERED ALL OF THE SENSITIVE FOREIGN SALES THAT FRANCE NOW HAS ON ITS AGENDA, INCLUDING PAKISTAN, SOUTH AFRICA AND IRAQ. THE BULLETIN ISSUED

*****WHSR COMMENT*****

SCONCROFT, HYLAND, MCFARLANE, LL, ALSO CEP

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AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE TWO-HOUR MORNING MEETING ONLY MENTIONED THE MATTER OF NO FUTURE SALES OF REPROCESSING PLANTS TO OTHER COUNTRIES. MOST OF THE WIRE SERVICES MAKE NOTE OF THE FACT THAT THIS POLICY STATEMENT IS CONSISTENT WITH THE US APPROACH ON THIS SUBJECT, THAT NO MENTION WAS MADE OF THE PAKISTAN PLANT AND THAT FRANCE HAS INDICATED ITS WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT PAKISTAN'S RECONSIDERATION.

3. FRENCH OFFICIALS FOR THE PAST SEVERAL WEEKS HAVE STEADFASTLY HELD THAT FRANCE WOULD NOT GO BACK ON ITS SIGNED CONTRACT AND THAT FRANCE WAS OPEN TO RECONSIDERATION BY PAKISTAN. NO COMMENT ON THE PROPOSED SALE OF A RESEARCH REACTOR TO IRAQ INDICATES THAT THIS MATTER IS STILL UNDER CONSIDERATION WITHIN THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT.

4. EMBASSY WILL PROVIDE FURTHER COMMENTS ON THIS ANNOUNCEMENT AS INFORMATION DEVELOPS.

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